



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano**

Fact Sheet #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

January 24, 2002

*The last Fact Sheet was dated January 23. New information is underlined.*

**Numbers Affected**

Total Affected: Approximately 350,000 (U.N.)  
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)  
Displaced People: Approximately 250,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)

**Current Situation**

- A survey by relief agencies determined that there were approximately 229,000 people in Goma on January 23. The city population is increasing as displaced people return to Goma. USAID/OFDA field staff report that displaced people in Rwanda are eager to return to Goma.
- As many as 148,000 have been displaced by the volcano in Goma, according to USAID/OFDA field reports. Concentrations of displaced people have been found in the following locations: in Goma (62,500); in Sake, DRC (5,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); in displacement camps near Gisenyi (6,000 to 10,000); Ruhengeri, Rwanda (4,000); in Bukavu, DRC (15,000) and surrounding areas (30,000); in 6 sites near the northwestern shore of Lake Kivu, near Sake (up to 60,000) and distributed in villages in the area (60,000).
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that the number of displaced people in Bukavu is as high as 15,000, however only 3,000 people are in displacement sites. The remaining people are residing with host families. There is some movement of people into Bukavu, although the displaced population there is probably beginning to decline.
- The World Food Programs states that it has been distributing food for 52,457 families (over 260,000 people) in the area around Goma and Sake, DRC. WFP plans to feed 400,000 people over the next three months. Relief agencies have established eleven sites for distribution of food and non-food assistance items. Four are in eastern Goma, six are in western Goma, and one is in Sake. These sites began distribution of food, blankets, water jugs, and soap on January 23.
- USAID/OFDA field reports indicate that the city of Goma has adequate medical supplies. International relief agencies are generally working within the existing health system in order to reinforce. Six unconfirmed cases of cholera have been reported, however the level of preparedness for possible disease outbreaks is high.
- The water distribution network currently services between 30 and 40 percent of the city, mostly in western parts of Goma. Twenty water purification stations have been established along the shore of Lake Kivu in areas where the water system does not reach. USAID/OFDA water bladders have been placed in other locations where the water network is not operating.
- UNOCHA has negotiated for the border into Rwanda to be open from 7:00 AM until 9:00 PM to allow relief access to affected populations. UNOCHA will continue negotiations to have the border opened continuously. There has been one report of border guards delaying passage of a relief convoy headed into Goma, and levying fees for relief goods to cross.
- Work is to begin on establishing three land bridges over lava flows between Goma and Rutshuru to the north. Rutshuru normally supplies much of Goma's food supplies. Three access routes have already been established over lava flows between eastern and western Goma.
- At least four local civil society groups, including religious and business sectors, are participating in relief and assessment activities.
- The Goma airport tower is considered inoperable due a risk of gas explosion. However, a local carrier is planned to resume regular flights from the airstrip on Monday, January 28.
- Electricity is available in most of western Goma and the commercial center. The residential area in eastern Goma, where 15 percent of the population lives, does not have electricity.

**U.S. Government Response**

- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- A flight of USAID/OFDA relief commodities arrived at Kigali, Rwanda on January 23. This flight included 20,000 wool blankets, 15,200 five-gallon water jugs, and 300 rolls of plastic sheeting from the USAID/OFDA

warehouse in Pisa, Italy. Three hundred rolls of plastic sheeting will provide shelter for approximately 3,000 families.

- A USAID/OFDA humanitarian relief flight carrying 20,000 blankets, 20,000 5-gallon water containers, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, and 5,000 dust masks from USAID's stockpile in Maryland arrived in Kigali, Rwanda on January 21.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has approved the loan of 1,714 metric tons (MT) of Title II emergency food aid, valued at \$1.1 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at \$2.3 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The USAID assistance team consists of six people in Kigali, Goma and Bukavu, DRC, including a health specialist, a water/sanitation engineer, a food security specialist, and three field operations officers.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa for relief assistance in the DRC.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$25,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Rwanda for relief assistance in Rwanda.
- USAID/OFDA has authorized Catholic Relief Services to reallocate non-food items stockpiled in the region for the rapid relief of populations affected by the volcano.

#### **Relief Efforts**

- On January 21, UNOCHA released a financial appeal for \$15 million to cover costs of the first ten days of response to the Goma disaster. An additional appeal will address relief requirements beyond the first ten days.
- Fourteen donors, not including the U.S. Government, have pledged over \$22.5 million of assistance for the Goma volcano disaster (not necessarily associated with the U.N. appeal).
- Both the Government of DRC and the Government of Rwanda have been providing material assistance and coordination support for the relief effort.

#### **Background**

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

#### **U.S. Government Assistance Funding Summary**

##### **USAID/OFDA**

- Monetary support to implementation partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations in DRC and Rwanda.....\$50,000
- A January 21 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water bladders, and dust masks. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation .....\$494,000
- A January 23 airlift of USAID/OFDA airlift departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. ....\$339,337

##### **USAID/FFP**

- USAID/FFP has approved the loan of 1,714 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$1,100,000

##### **USDA**

- USDA has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$2,255,000

USAID/OFDA .....	\$883,337
USAID/FFP .....	\$1,100,000
USDA .....	\$2,255,000
<b>Total USG Assistance .....</b>	<b>\$4,238,337</b>

*USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)*